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# NEWS RELEASE

## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$75,900 TO THE CITY OF HUMANSVILLE

Morris Westfall, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development presented a mock check in the amount of \$75,900 to the City of Humansville at City Hall on December 18, 2008. The USDA grant funds combined with city funds in the amount of \$25,325 financed a 1987 Pumper Fire Truck with a 750 gallon tank.

U.S. Senator Kit Bond said, "The new fire truck is critical to the protection of Humansville residents and the firefighters who risk their lives to protect them. I commend the Humansville community and the USDA Rural Development staff for their hard work in making this project a reality."

"Missouri fire fighters deserve the best equipment we can give them to help protect the communities they serve as well as their own safety," U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill said. "I'm so pleased that these federal funds will help the Humansville fire department purchase a more effective fire truck."

"I am pleased that such a worthy group of firefighters will receive this grant. The Humansville firefighters risk their lives each time they respond to a fire or an emergency. Through this grant, the firefighters can ensure higher standards of safety for themselves and the public," said Congressman Ike Skelton.

Mayor John Henry expressed his appreciation, "On behalf of the citizens of Humansville, I want to extend our thanks to USDA Rural Development for these grant funds enabling the city to replace an old fire truck with this pumper fire truck for the fire department. It is vital that our fire fighters have dependable equipment in order to better serve our citizens."

Fire Chief John Hopkins said, "Our citizens depend on our fire departments for their protection and safety. Having better equipment for our department will certainly aid our efforts providing service to the citizens of our rural community."

Morris Westfall said, "Appreciation is extended to our federal elected officials for supporting USDA Rural Development. U.S. Senators Kit Bond and Claire McCaskill plus U.S.



Left to Right Front Row: Mark Hultgren, Area Director; Morris Westfall, Missouri State Director; John Hopkins, Assistant Fire Chief; John Henry, Mayor; Leonard Walburn, Alderman

Back Row: Rhonda Rogers, Alderwoman; Melissa Richardson, Field Representative for Congressman Ike Skelton; Hollie Elliott, Field Representative for U.S. Senator Kit Bond; David Rauch, District Director for U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill; Linda Kenney, City Clerk

Representative Ike Skelton have been strong proponents for the necessary funding of essential services for rural Missourians.” Westfall added, “Financing essential equipment is consistent with Rural Development’s mission and President Bush’s commitment to the future of rural communities.”

Anyone seeking more information about this or any other USDA Rural Development program may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Leon Melvin, Rural Development Manager, at 688 S. State Hwy B, Suite 400, Springfield, MO 65802 or by calling (417) 831-5246 extension 4 or by email to [leon.melvin@mo.usda.gov](mailto:leon.melvin@mo.usda.gov).

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